

Submitted by: New York State Clean Vessel Assistance Program



The Clean Vessel Act of 1992 made grants available to coastal and inland states for the installation of pump-out stations and waste reception facilities to collect recreational boater sewage. New York was awarded its first grant under the act in 1994 and since has established a very successful Clean Vessel Assistance Program (CVAP). Since its inception, CVAP, which is managed and administered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), has resulted in more than 373 pump-out units installed and 41 pump-out boats in operation. New York's CVAP has since grown to include operation & maintenance grants and boater education programs that relate to recreational vessel sewage. The program has helped place the issue of vessel sewage disposal in the public spotlight. Through the program, several million gallons of sewage has been collected and disposed of in a safe, sanitary manner. This has resulted in a tremendous positive impact on the overall quality of New York's water bodies. New York's CVAP is a model of success.



Construction/ Upgrade-Stationary Pump-outs



Since 1994, the New York Clean Vessel Act Program has provided more than \$5.1 million dollars in federal funding to install 392 pump-out units and purchase 41 pump-out boats for municipalities and private marinas. The program has also helped upgrade or repair aging units through 33 “upgrade” grants totaling more than \$136,000.

Pump-out Boat Funding



New York has helped fund 41 pump-out boats through the CVA program. These vessels, as opposed to stationary facilities, offer greater convenience to boaters. If pump-out services are needed, a boater can simply hail the pump-out by VHF radio and it will come to them. Pump-out boats are also able to provide service over a greater area and accommodate larger vessels that are unable to utilize stationary units due to water depth or dock size limitations.

The Town of Southampton’s pump-out boat program, which began in 1995, is a great success story for New York State. In 1995 the Town

requested CVAP grants to begin its program with five pump-out boats. The fleet has grown to its current size of seven vessels which are operated seven days a week during the boating season. Each of the boats has a 300-gallon capacity and provides free service with support from the Town’s Trustees. Presently, the program is collecting sewage at a rate of 120,000+ gallons of sewage each year. With \$356,652 in support from CVAP, the Town’s pump-out boats have collected a combined total of 1.1 million gallons of sewage.

Information and Education



The CVAP Information & Education (I&E) Grant Program provides municipalities and not-for-profit organizations with funding for projects that promote the understanding and use of pump-out stations in a particular area. Grants are provided for up to 75% of eligible project costs with a maximum award of \$5,000. To date, 21 I&E projects, totaling \$91,899.61, have been funded. Some of these projects include pump-out maps designed by the not-for-profit organization Going Coastal. The location and contact information of pump stations are produced on handy post card size maps. Thus far, maps have been produced for the Hudson River, New York/New Jersey Harbor and all of Long Island. Each year the maps are delivered for distribution to agencies, marinas, boating clubs, and boat shows. It is estimated that these maps reach more than 10,000 boaters per season.

Operation & Maintenance Grants (O&M)



In August of 2007 EFC announced the expansion of the CVAP to include grants for the operation and maintenance of eligible pump-out facilities to assist with annual costs such as start-up, winterization, dock fees, fuel, staffing, and administration. The grants are designed to help protect the investment and keep existing units functioning well. A 75% reimbursement of eligible costs is available to facilities on an annual basis, up to \$2,000 for land based facilities and \$5,000 for pump-out boats.

New York's CVAP has made 226 disbursements totaling \$497,747.78 in O&M grants to keep its pump-out stations operating reliably.

Marketing & Outreach



New York promotes pump-out use, benefits, and availability through annual advertisements in boating magazines. Ads have run in the Association of Marine Industries Cruising Guide, Boating on the Hudson, Boating Times Long Island, Long Island Boating World, Syracuse Post Standard, Richardsons' Maptech Guide, and Seaway Trail.

In 2008, CVAP produced an educational DVD, *"Pump It, Don't Dump It"* that raises the awareness of the importance of pump-out use in order to preserve and protect water quality in New York State's navigable waters. Taping took place on location at several local marinas and pump-out facilities.

Each year the program exhibits at several events such as the New York Boat Show and the Central New York Boat Show to display and distribute information regarding pump-outs and the CVAP. This allows a direct interaction with thousands of boaters and other industry representatives throughout the region.

Summer Intern Program

With so many sites receiving funding from New York State CVAP there is a need to perform routine inspections to determine whether the recipients are meeting the terms of the grant. Under the CVAP grant agreement the grant recipient must meet the following criteria: equipment must be functioning and accessible to the general public; charge no more than \$5 service fee; and have Clean Vessel Assistance Program signs and flags clearly posted. Each site must have signage clearly posting the hours of operation and operating instructions for the pump out unit. NYS EFC utilizes a summer intern to handle this task. In addition to compliance related work, the intern is also responsible for gathering valuable feedback and promoting the program.

Statewide No Discharge Zone Initiative

EFC has partnered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of State to embark on an aggressive campaign to turn all state waterways into a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) by 2012. New York has been able to make a strong case for No Discharge Zones because the recreational boating community has an extensive network of pump-out facilities throughout state waterways.

The effort has been a great success. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated the South Shore Estuary, Lake George, Lake Champlain, areas of the Hudson River from which drinking water is drawn, Mamaroneck Harbor, East Hampton, Huntington-Northport Bay Complex, Port Jefferson Harbor Complex, Hempstead Harbor, Peconic Estuary, the Hudson River Estuary, and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor as No Discharge Zones. Then, in 2009 EPA granted a NDZ designation for the entire 524 mile stretch of the NYS Canal System, a testament to the success of New York's CVAP. .

Currently, No Discharge Zone petitions are pending approval by the EPA for the NY waters of Long Island Sound and Lake Ontario. Once they are approved EFC, in conjunction with its team, will prepare petitions for the remaining water bodies in New York that are not protected by an NDZ designation - St. Lawrence, Lake Erie and Niagara River.

Partnerships



New York has an excellent working relationship with numerous not-for profit organizations in the boating industry, such as the Association of Marine Industries, Going Coastal, Soundkeeper, and Sea Grant New York. In 2010 NYS's CVAP provided outreach and promotional material to Sea Grant New York's "2010 Discover Clean & Safe Boating Pledge." During the 2500-plus mile campaign more than 1,400 New York residents from Clayton and Oswego to Skaneateles, Seneca Falls and Syracuse were exposed to good boating practices including the use of pump-outs. New York looks forward to working with not-for profit organizations to promote CVAP in similar ways.

Conclusion

New York's Clean Vessel Assistance Program has been a tremendous success. The program has been critical in creating a network of reliable and accessible pump-out installations for the recreational boating community. In fact, New York's CVAP is second to only the State of Maryland in the number of pump-out facilities entering service since the Clean Vessel Act was passed by congress in 1992. The New York program has demonstrated excellence in accomplishments through partnerships, innovative approaches, and thoughtful planning. It provides other grant recipients with a shining example of a successful program and is absolutely worthy of the 2011 SOBA State Clean Vessel Act (CVA) Program Excellence award.